

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SW, US
SUBJ: SWEDISH CONCERN REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCOWRSE
WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS

1. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY,
LEIF LEIFLAND, EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN MARCH 2 ABOUT THE
CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCOURSE WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM ABOUT A MATTER OF EXTREME
SENSITIVITY, LEIFLAND ALLUDED TO SEVERAL RECENT INSTANCES IN WHICH
OFFICIAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SWEDISH AND AMERICAN DIPLOMATS,
SOME OF A SENSITIVE NATURE, WERE MADE PUBLIC. HE REFERRED
SPECIFICALLY TO THE PENTAGON PAPERS CASE (WHICH INVOLVED A NUMBER
OF SWEDISH MESSAGES ABOUT VIETNAM), THE PRESENT HUMPHREY CASE
(IN WHICH SEVERAL MESSAGES QUOTING SWEDISH SOURCES HAVE BEEN
TURNED OVER TO THE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS AND PRESUMABLY WILL BE IN
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN), AND MORE GENERALLY TO THE WHOLE THREAT
OF EXPOSURE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

3. LEIFLAND (WHO WAS SWEDISH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES DURING THE PERIOD
OF CHILL OWING TO SWEDEN'S OPPOSITION TO THE WAR IN VIETNAM,
AND WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL TO THE RESTORATION OF
NORMAL US-SWEDISH FRIENDSHIP) SAID WE HAD ENTERED A PERIOD
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WHEN USEFUL SWEDISH-AMERICAN COOPERATION WAS AGAIN POSSIBLE.
THIS COOPERATION COULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT TO BOTH COUN-
TRIES, BUT IT HAD TO BE BASED ON FREE AND OPEN EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION. HIS PAINFUL QUESTION WAS, "HOW FAR CAN WE GO NOW
IN TALKING WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS, WITHOUT FEAR OF DISCLO-
SURE?" LEIFLAND SAID THIS MATTER WORRIED HIM A GREAT DEAL,
FOR THE OBVIOUS DANGER OF DISCLOSURE HAD TO AFFECT A DIPLOMAT'S

DEGREE OF OPENNESS, AND WITHOUT FULLY OPEN EXCHANGES, HOW COULD COOPERATION BE AS FULL AS IT OUGHT TO BE?

4. THE DCM SAID HE PERSONNALLY, AND HE BELIEVED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE US GOVERNMENT, WERE EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION, AND MANY OF OUR ALLIES HAD EXPRESSED THEIR ANXIETY. THE DCM SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT LEIFLAND'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO WASHINGTON IN THE HOPE THAT IT AND SIMILAR STATEMENTS BY FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD HELP US IN THE EFFORT TO PROTECT VITAL DIPLOMATIC CONFIDENTIALITY.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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